

Danish Development Research Network

Minutes of DDRN's 7th Board Meeting

September 12, 2007 – Institute of Geography and Geology, University of Copenhagen

Participants: Arne Wangel (AW), Bente Topsøe-Jensen (BTJ), Claus Jørgensen (CJ), Henrik Egelyng (HE), Olav Jull Sørensen (OJS), Ole Mertz (OM), Stefano Ponte (SP). Observer: Hanne Carus (HC). Secretariat staff: Anne Marie Sørensen (AMS), Lluís Armangué (LA), Lone Frederiksen (LF) - rapporteur

Apologies: Alex Percy-Smith (APS), Mette Kjær (MK), Peter Oksen (PO), Marianne Forti (MF), Peter Lund-Thomsen (PLT)

Agenda:

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting
3. Briefing on progress of activities by the secretariat
 - Joint DDRN-Danida thematic conference on Rural Economic Development in February-March 2008 (information and discussion)
 - Other matters arising from the brief
4. Activities in the South (discussion and decision)
 - Strategy (discussion of concept paper)
 - Workshop on knowledge, research and development related to governance in Uganda, October 2007
 - DDRN input on Urban Environmental Management at SANORD conference in Western Cape, December 2007. See: <http://www.sanord.org/>
 - DDRN input to WB/VTU/Danida conference on Applying Technology and Innovation to be held in Kenya 2008
5. Applications for member activities
 - Presentation of proposals (decision)
6. DDRN Conferences 2008
 - Conference themes in 2008 (presentation and discussion of suggestions)
7. A.O.B (including decision of date for next board meeting)

Ad 1. Approval of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

Ad 2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

It was mentioned that one sentence had been omitted under Activity 11 in the table, compared to the text in the box under item 6. With this reservation the minutes were adopted.

Ad 3. Briefing on progress of activities by the secretariat

The idea behind the brief progress report is not to address it in detail at the meeting; and it will not deal with matters that appear as items on the agenda.

The meeting of the group preparing the joint Danida-DDRN thematic conference on Rural Economic Development will be on September 24. Many members have expressed their interest in contributing to the preparations, and the group has been selected with a view of representativeness. A list of members of the restricted group as well as of all members who have expressed an interest in contributing to the preparations is attached as an appendix to the minutes. HC mentioned that the group may be open to new members according to the themes selected for the conference. Danida is working on an issue paper that will be submitted for comments before the conference.

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When presenting DDRN at the Danida seminar on governance in October 2007 it is important to underline that the DDRN approach to Governance is broader than the new public sector strategy to be discussed at the seminar. HC: Danida is developing a new paper on public sector reform and human rights.

Decision 1: Overviews elaborated by the secretariat will be available on the website.

The role of EFARD in relation to EIARD and the national fora needs to be clarified, a question that will be discussed at the steering committee meeting on September, 25 (AS).

The budgetary status showed that DDRN has spent considerably less than allowed for in the budget. This is mainly due to the fact that many activities during the first months did not require much money, and that the above-mentioned conference on Rural Economic Development, which was planned for this autumn, has been postponed to 2008. HC confirmed that unused funds could be transferred to next year, according to a revised budget to be approved by Danida.

Up-dating by AS:

The secretariat has participated in a meeting with four staff members at DCCD, where it was mentioned that DCCD is to be merged with other centres under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Possible fields of collaboration were identified, and DCCD pointed out that DDRN can best take contact to advisers at meetings abroad.

Ad 4. Activities in the South

AS gave a brief presentation of the planned activities and the concept paper, which has been developed after a talk with Ole Terkildsen. An important objective of supporting the creation of DDRN activities in the South is to increase South ownership of common research projects. Activities in the South must build on concrete contents, and the secretariat is preparing a workshop in Uganda in connection with the Danida conference in order to initiate a test of increased collaboration with the South. One challenge is that since the idea comes from Denmark, the activities may collapse after the workshop.

Comments were among others that it is important that the collaboration with South partners starts already from the concept stage and that a workshop is a good way of initiating activities since there are many stakeholders present; and it offers opportunities for essential personal contacts. Establishing joint research projects is a long process, but there is an increased openness both in the South and in Danida. It was suggested that a workshop with a more specific focus on collaboration North-South might be more efficient. Moreover, it was mentioned that the network disposes of means for engaging a key person in the South who can assure the continuity after a workshop. Local capacity building is important as is linking up to other international stakeholders (Paris declaration). Current collaboration and joint activities in which our members are involved should be clarified for possible contacts. It is important to take contact to local stakeholders in Uganda, including Danida programmes, the private sector, and institutions, in particular within governance and environment. AS demanded if any of the board members would contribute as a sparring partner on the concept note, but nobody volunteered.

It was concluded that the concept paper is a good point of departure, and that it is to be elaborated in particular with regard to financing, organization, and activities. Other ideas of initiatives besides the workshop in Uganda might be included. Preparation of the three other activities mentioned under item 4 will continue. AW mentioned that the concept note was not yet ready for publication on the website.

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Action 1: AS elaborates on the concept note including other possible activities as well as more details of organization, activities, and financing of the workshop in Uganda.

Action 2: The secretariat continues the preparations of the workshop on governance in Uganda (October 2007), of inputs to the SANORD conference on Urban Environmental Management in South Africa (December 2007), and of inputs to the WB/VTU/Danida conference on Applying Technology and Innovation in Kenya (2008).

Ad 5. Applications for member activities

5a. Applications for workshops

SP and HE declared each to be involved in the preparations of one of the applications, so the question of competence to act was discussed.

Decision 1: If any doubt can be raised as to whether a person may have any personal interest in the project applying for funding, this person will not be present during the treatment of that particular application.

The four applications presented under 5a were treated individually, which concluded in the following comments and conclusions:

Application 1: Organic Agriculture for Sustainable Development (OASD), promoted by the Board on Developing Countries under the Danish Association on Organic Agriculture. Contact person: Birthe Jacobsen.

The board wanted a full budget attached to the application and a clarification of whether funding is also applied for with Danida, since DDRN is Danida funded. With these modifications the funding was granted.

Action 3: LA replies that the demand has been approved under the condition that a full budget, indicating which budget lines are to be covered by DDRN, is forwarded to the board. LA is to underline that DDRN is financed by Danida, and that support can not be granted twice from the same source.

Application 2: Trade Mondays, by Amin Alavi, researcher at DIIS.

The activity is a continuation of one that was supported by GEPPA, and it was approved without observations.

Action 4: LA sends approval of the application.

Application 3: New Latin American Development Strategies in a Changing International Economic and Political Context, by Steen Fryba Christensen, ass. Prof., Institute for Culture and Languages, AAU, and Vibeke Andersson, ass. prof., Institute for History, International and Social Studies, AAU.

The activities do not correspond very well with the objectives and expected outputs, and the focus on development seems quite weak. The budget is very large, and there is no indication of where the funding of the remaining expenses is supposed to come from. An approval will depend on reception of a financial estimate and of a more detailed plan of activities related to objectives and outputs. Moreover, it is a condition that if the funding for the whole budget is not granted, a revised application will be forwarded indicating which activities will be left out.

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Action 5: LA sends a reply expressing an approval in principle, but conditional on the following demands:

- A financial estimate must be forwarded to DDRN, indicating which expenses are to be covered by DDRN
- The application must be elaborated in order to show how the intended activities correspond to the objective and the expected outputs.
- The funding is for the activities approved of. If the total funding does not cover the budget, another application must be forwarded to DDRN with a revised activity plan and budget.

Application 4: How to Incorporate the Importance of Cross-Disciplinarity in Development Research in FP7, by Torben Greve, Marten Sørensen, Andreas de Neergaard, Martin Magelund Rasmussen, LIFE, KU.

It seemed not clear whether support was demanded for both the closed and the open arrangement; and the programme and the budget are not sufficiently detailed.

Action 6: LA replies that the application is granted on the condition that the DDRN grant is only for support of open arrangements and that a detailed programme and budget be forwarded.

5b. Application for 'Other activities': Translation of a book on Mega Projects and Risks from English into Thai. By ass. prof. Orathai Ard-am, Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand.

It was observed that although the subject of the book is relevant, DDRN does not support translation. It was suggested that the funds under 'other activities' should preferably be used for innovative and possibly risky activities.

Action 7: LA sends reply to prof. Orathai Ard-am, explaining that his application does not fall within the scope of DDRN's funding policy.

Ad 6. DDRN conferences 2008

The inputs from the board are from the previous meeting. No new suggestions have come up from the members.

A DDRN activity related to the Climate change summit in Copenhagen in 2009 is envisaged; many other organisations are also planning activities, including WWF and the Geographical Society, and some coordination would be useful. We might cooperate with the network under Danish Water Forum in preparing inputs with special focus on developing countries and on which factors are determining for the use of environmentally sound technologies in developing countries. We should also link up to Gert Aagaard at MIL. The theme of mitigation and adaptation in developing countries to climate change might also be included.

The role of knowledge and research with the new aid architecture was seen as a fine, broad subject, whereas it was mentioned that the private sector and agricultural research are rather narrow for a conference.

'Evaluation of support to research for development' is probably too vague for a conference, but might be a good subject for a workshop. Another suggestion was that it could be linked to the above theme on the role of knowledge...

Other themes suggested were:

'Research and development in developing countries', a theme which is of current interest.

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Private sector also includes global value chains that bind together countries in the South and in the North, as well as policies on distribution of values.

It was mentioned that DDRN must check up with other conferences (e.g. DDD and FAU) with regard to themes. The FAU conference will be on Urban Development and Environment in the Third World.

Decision 2: DDRN will arrange a conference on climate change in 2008 or 2009, according to whether the summit on climate change will be in the beginning or in the end of 2009. If feasible the conference will be prepared in cooperation with other relevant partners.

Action 8: The board and the secretariat will check up on themes for other conferences in order to avoid overlapping.

Action 9: The board and the secretariat will consider a theme for the second conference, in autumn 2008, until the next board meeting, where it will be decided upon.

Ad 7. A.O.B.

No questions were raised under this item apart from the decision on the next board meeting.

Decision 3: The next board meeting will be on December 10, 2007, at 10 a.m.

List of actions from 7th board meeting

Reference	Action	By whom	Status
BM7: Act.1	AS elaborates on the concept note including other possible activities as well as more details of organization, activities, and financing of the workshop in Uganda.	MF and secretariat	OK
BM7: Act.2	The secretariat continues the preparations of the workshop on governance in Uganda (October 2007), of inputs to the SANORD conference on Urban Environmental Management in South Africa (December 2007), and of inputs to the WB/VTU/Danida conference on Applying Technology and Innovation in Kenya (2008).	AMS and LA	On-going
BM7: Act.3	LA replies that the demand has been approved under the condition that a full budget, indicating which budget lines are to be covered by DDRN, is forwarded to the board. LA is to underline that DDRN is financed by Danida, and that support can not be granted twice from the same source.	LA	OK
BM7: Act.4	LA sends approval of the application.	LA	OK
BM7: Act.5	LA sends a reply expressing approval in principle, but conditional on the following demands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A financial estimate must be forwarded to DDRN, indicating which expenses are to be covered by the network. 	LA	OK

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application must be elaborated in order to show how the intended activities correspond to the objective and the expected outputs. • The funding is for the activities approved of. If the total funding does not cover the budget, another application must be forwarded to DDRN with a revised activity plan and budget. 		
BM7: Act.6	LA replies that the application is granted on the condition that the DDRN grant is only for support of open arrangements and that a detailed programme and budget be forwarded.	LA	OK
BM7: Act.7	LA sends reply to prof. Orathai Ard-am, explaining that his application does not fall within the scope of DDRN's funding policy.	LA	OK
BM7: Act.8	The board and the secretariat will check up on themes for other conferences in order to avoid overlapping.	Secretariat and board	OK
BM7: Act.9	The board and the secretariat will consider theme for the second conference, in autumn 2008, until the next board meeting, where it will be decided upon.	Secretariat and board	On-going
BM7:Act.10	In 2008 the board and the secretariat will consider whether it is feasible to arrange a consensus conference á la Lomborg.	Secretariat and board	2008

List of pending actions from previous board meetings

Reference	Action	By whom	Status
BM4:Act.1	Hold a meeting with the head of the department of Geography and Geology to clarify the agreement between the University of Copenhagen and the network.	OM and MK	On-going
BM6:Act.10	Develop guidelines for the establishment of more active engagement of members in the South.	Secretariat and board members	On-going